

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS CALCUTTA 2310

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTA

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE: FISHING VESSELS

1. MR. S.M. MURSHED, WEST BENGAL SECRETARY FOR FISHERIES, CONTACTED THE CONSULATE SEEKING AID IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WILL TAKE DELIVERY DURING OCTOBER OF THREE 100 TON DEEP SEA FISHING TRAWLERS FROM MEXICAN MANUFACTURERS. MR. MURSHED SAID THE SHIPS WILL BE SAILED TO HOUSTON HARBOR WHERE THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WANTS TO HAVE THEM LOADED ON SHIPPING CORPORATION OF INDIA VESSELS. BECAUSE THE SCHEDULES OF THE SHIPPING CORPORATION SHIPS MAY NOT COINCIDE WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE TRAWLERS BERTHING ARRANGEMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE AT HOUSTON. ADDITIONALLY, MR. MURSHED SAID A FOURTH TRAWLER AT A LATER DATE WILL SAIL UP THE WEST COAST TO BE LOADED IN LOS ANGELES. SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE THERE.

2. MR. MURSHED PLANS TO BE IN HOUSTON ON OCTOBER 15 AND WANTS US TO SUPPLY HIM WITH THE NAME AND CONTACT INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE HOUSTON PORT OFFICIAL HE SHOULD MEET. HE WILL BE IN LOS ANGELES ON OCTOBER 19-20 AND NEEDS THE SAME HELP THERE. ALSO, MR. MURSHED WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE NAME OF SHRIMP IMPORTERS HE CAN CONTACT IN NEW YORK ON OCTOBER 12.

3. MURSHED SAYS HIS DEPARTMENT WILL PROBABLY RECEIVE AUTHORIZATION NEXT YEAR TO PURCHASE FOUR TO FIVE MORE TRAWLERS, A TUNA FACTORY SHIP, AND ONE MOTHER SHIP FOR THE TRAWLERS. HE UNCLASSIFIED

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WANTS TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE OF THESE ITEMS WITH MANUFACTURERS

IN THE UNITED STATES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WHERE THESE LATER BOATS ARE TO BE PURCHASED HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED, AND WILL DEPEND UPON HIS TALKS IN THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE MAKE APPOINTMENTS FOR MR. MURSHED WITH THE PORT AUTHORITIES IN HOUSTON AND LOS ANGELES AND THAT APPOINTMENTS ALSO BE MADE WITH SHRIMP IMPORTERS IN NEW YORK, IF POSSIBLE, MORE IMPORTANTLY, APPOINTMENTS WITH US MANUFACTURERS OF TRAWLERS, TUNA MOTHER FACTORY SHIPS AND TRAWLER MOTHER SHIPS SHOULD ALSO BE ARRANGED. MURSHED WILL ADJUST HIS SCHEDULE TO OUR APPOINTMENT ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE PERIMETER THAT HE IS ARRIVING AT NEW YORK ON OCTOBER 11 AND PLANS TO RETURN TO CALCUTTA ON NOVEMBER 2. MURSHED ALSO HAS THE TASK OF BUILDING A LARGE PUBLIC AQUARIUM IN CALCUTTA AND SOUGHT BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM THE CONSULATE ON AQUARIUMS IN THE US. IF THE DOC, WHEN ARRANGING HIS SCHEDULE, COULD INCLUDE VISITS TO WELL KNOWN US PUBLIC AQUARIUMSMOE WOULD BE PLEASED. PLEASE INFORM US NO LATER THAN OPENING OF BUSINESS OCTOBER 4 OF APPOINTMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR MR. MURSHED.

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